

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 SAB-01 DRC-01 /113 W

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R 241441Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3151

INFO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT GR

SUBJ: APRIL 21 REVOLUTION COMMEMORATED

1. SUMMARY. GOG UNDERScored ITS IDEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION WITH APRIL 21, 1967 REVOLUTION BY PAYING SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY BY DOXOLOGIES, FLAG FLYING, AND SPECIAL TV PROGRAM. INITIATORS OF APRIL 21 COUP WERE EXPEDTEDLY NOT PRESENT NOR WAS REFERENCE MADE IN DOXOLOGY SERMON OR NEWSPAPER EDITORIALS TO PAPADOPOULOS AND COLLEAGUES, NOW QUIETLY BACKSHELVED. DIPLOMATIC CORPS WAS NOT INVITED TO COMMEMORATE THESE ACTIVITIES WHICH WERE PREDOMINANTLY MILITARY AFFAIR. END SUMMARY.

2. TE DEUM AT ATHENS CATHEDRAL WHICH WAS PUBLICIZED THROUGHOUT PRECEDING WEEK MARKED HIGH POINT IN APRIL 21 ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION. PRESIDENT GHIZIKIS, PM ANDROUTSOPOULOS, CABINET, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF ARMED FORCES AND OTHER TOP GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ATTENDED. ARCHBISHOP SERAPHIM CONDUCTED LITURGY WHICH INCLUDED SPECIAL PRAYER IN WHICH SERAPHIM THANKED GOD FOR "HAVING INSPIRED THESE PEOPLE TO SAVE NATION" AND ASKED THAT THEY HAVE "HARMONY AND POWER TO BRING TO SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION ACHIEVEMENTS AT WHICH THEY AIM". TE DEUMS ALSO TOOK

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PLACE IN THESSALONIKI AND IN PROVINCES. GOG ORDERED

GREEK FLAG FLOWN FROM ALL OFFICES AND HOMES. SPECIAL TV PROGRAM INCLUDING MILITARY OBSERVANCES, ETHNIC DANCING AND SINGING TOOK OVER PRIME TIME SUNDAY EVENING, APRIL 21.

3. MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, E. LATSOU DIS, ISSUED ORDER OF DAY, MARKING SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF APRIL 21 REVOLUTION. IT NOTED GREEK PEOPLE WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORT HISTORIC INITIATIVE OF ARMED FORCES WHICH AVERTED IMPENDING DISASTER. LATSOU DIS POINTED OUT PAST SEVEN YEARS HAVE BEEN RICH IN ACHIEVEMENTS IN ALL SECTORS OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INITIATIVE THANKS TO REVOLUTION'S BRINGING ORDER AND PEACE. "IN SECTOR OF NATIONAL DEFENSE WE HAVE SUCCEEDED IN MODERNIZING OUR ARMED FORCES THROUGH OUR OWN FINANCIAL MEANS AND IN INCREASING THEIR COMBAT ABILITY TO A DEGREE WHICH GUARANTEES THE PROTECTION OF THE NATION FROM ALL ENEMIES AND THE SAFE CONTINUATION OF ITS EFFORT TO ACHIEVE PEACEFUL GOALS." STATEMENT CONCLUDED THAT TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL UNEASINESS IMPOSE NECESSITY FOR CONSTANT IMPROVEMENT OF ARMED FORCES AND MAINTENANCE OF READINESS AT ALL TIMES.

4. PRO-GOG (BOTH APRIL 21 AND NOVEMBER 25 REGIMES) NEWSPAPERS ELEFTHEROS COSMOS AND AKROPOLIS CARRIED FEATURE EDITORIALS ON APRIL 21 REVOLUTION SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY. ELEFTHEROS COSMOS UNDER BANNER HEADLINE, "PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE", RECALLED THAT APRIL 21 COUP ABOLISHED AS "MATTER OF FORM" POLITICAL REGIME WHICH HAD ALREADY DISINTEGRATED. COSMOS QUOTED EX-PM KARAMANLIS' STATEMENT THAT "DEMOCRACY WAS DESTROYED IN GREECE UNDER FREE REGIME." IT OBSERVED THAT APRIL 21 REVOLUTION REFLECTED DESIRE OF ARMED FORCES FOR RADICAL RENOVATION OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS. EDITORIAL ADDED THAT IN VIEW OF THOSE WHO CARRIED OUT NOVEMBER 25 REVOLUTION INITIAL EXECUTORS OF APRIL 21 HAD NOT ACTED SUFFICIENTLY VIGOROUSLY AND HAD NOT PROVIDED MEANS FOR RADICAL CURE OF EVIL WHICH ALLOWED FURTHER DETERIORATION OF THE DISEASE. "ON NOVEMBER 25, 1973 ARMED FORCES INTERVENED SECOND TIME BECAUSE COUNTRY HAD RETURNED TO PERIOD OF 1965-67. MATTERS IN FACT HAD GROWN WORSE. COOPERATION WITH COMMUNISTS IN 1973 WAS BROADER THAN IT HAD BEEN IN 1965-67." EDITORIAL EXPLAINED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARMED FORCES INTERVENED AGAIN ON NOVEMBER 25 FOR THREE REASONS--TO NEUTRALIZE ANARCHIST THREAT WHICH HAD GAINED STRENGTH THROUGH COOPERATION WITH OR TOLERANCE OF PARTIES OF RIGHT, TO CAST ASIDE POLITICIZED SECTION OF APRIL 21 REVOLUTION, AND TO RETURN APRIL 21 TO ITS INTENDED ORBIT. ELEFTHEROS COSMOS CONCLUDED WITH TRIBUTE TO PRIME MINISTER. "MR. ADAMANTIOS ANDROUTSOPOULOS, A MAN WHO EMERGED AND GAINED DISTINCTION IN POLITICAL LIFE

WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF REVOLUTUION OF APRIL 21, IS STRUGGLING  
FRUITFULLY TO PRODUCE THE BEST ON A SHORT-TERM BASIS,  
AND IN THE LONG TERM TO ELABORATE AND TO IMPLEMENT RADICAL  
REFORMS AS A POLITICAL INTERPRETER OF THE BROADER  
ORIENTATION OF THE ARMED FORCES."

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5. FOLLOWING SUIT IN EDITORIAL CAPTION "DEEPER MEANING OF  
APRIL 21" AKROPOLIS REVIEWED SITUATION BEFORE APRIL 21,  
1967, EMPHASIZING NEED FOR CONSTRUCTIVE CHANGE WHICH  
EMERGED FROM DECLINE IN NATION'S PUBLIC LIFE AND  
FROM OUTSIDE EVENTS. AKROPOLIS QUERIED RHETORICALLY  
WHETHER APRIL 21 REFLECTED SPIRIT "OF BROAD POPULAR  
MASSES." AFTER AFFIRMATIVE ASSESSMENT, EDITORIAL POINTED  
OUT THAT WITHOUT POPULAR SUPPORT APRIL 21 REVOLUTION  
WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAINTAIN ITS COURSE FOR  
PAST SEVEN YEARS. AKROPOLIS CONCLUDED THAT CONDITIONS  
PROMPTING APRIL 21 REVOLUTION DEMAND RADICAL CHANGES  
LEADING TO FORMATION OF ENTIRELY NEW SITUATION. "THIS  
IS SITUATION THAT WILL ENSURE SMOOTH POLITICAL LIFE,  
FREE OF DANGERS, WITHOUT RETURN TO PAST. THIS IN ESSENCE  
MEANS FORMATION AND PROJECTION OF NEW POLITICAL FORCES.  
THIS IS FUNDAMENTAL POINT OF OUR POLITICAL PROBLEM.  
THE SOLUTION IS DIFFICULT. THE GREEK PEOPLE REALIZE  
THIS. THIS IS WHY THEY GRANTED THE REQUIRED CREDIT  
OF TIME. A SOLUTION MUST BE FOUND. WE ARE CERTAIN THAT

IT WILL BE FOUND, BUT IT SHOULD STEM FROM SPIRIT OF  
APRIL 21. AND THE SOONER WE REALIZE THE DEEPER MEANS  
OF APRIL 21, THE SOONER WE SHALL FIND A SOLUTION."

6. COMMENT: UNCHARACTERISTIC OF TRADITIONAL GREEK INTENSE  
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INTEREST IN CONDUCT OF NATIONAL AFFAIRS, COUNTRY AFTER  
SEVEN YEARS OF MILITARY RULE IS IN PLATEAU OF INACTIVITY  
WITH NO HIGHS AND NO LOWS IN ECONOMIC/SOCIAL FIELD AND IN  
STAGNANT POLITICAL SITUATION. HOWEVER DIRE PREDICTIONS  
OF ECONOMIC COLLAPSE AND SOCIAL UPHEAVAL HAVE NOT  
MATERIALIZED. APRIL 21 CELEBRATIONS THUS TOOK PLACE  
ROUTINELY AND UNEVENTFULLY WITHOUT DRAWING ANY MANIFESTATIONS  
OF PUBLIC INTEREST. PRO-REGIME PRESS EDITORIALS BREAK NO NEW  
GROUND AND PRESUMABLY WERE REVIEWED BY AUTHORITIES BEFORE  
PUBLICATION. GREEK PUBLIC APPARENTLY CONTINUES TO GO  
ABOUT ITS DAILY AFFAIRS IN SOMEWHAT DISPIRITED BUT  
BUSINESS-AS-USUAL MOOD. TASCA

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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